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reason to think is a very ancient one, bears testimony to the Indian's intense feeling of personality, a personality that to a degree was supposed to control the very vision itself; for the potency of the manifestation vouchsafed to a man in his vision was judged by the quality of the man's acts in after life. It was believed that a man of weak will and mind could not be the recipient of a vision that would give him great power, because such a man would not be capable of receiving such a manifestation from Wa-kan-da. Thus the quality of a man's vision, which was to supplement his natural strength by supernatural power, depended upon the character of the man's Wa-zhin', his mind, will-power and energy, or, in other words, his personality.

This estimate of a man's will-power could be traced in other words, customs and ceremonies of the Omahas, and in other tribes belonging to the Siouan group, for this belief was not only connected with sacred rites and social ceremonies, but it was also intermingled with homely customs and offices that were shared in by both old and young. In view of this wealth of testimony from the daily life of these Indians, it is not surprising that the languages of the people should betray the dominance of 'the idea of Personality.'

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THE SAND-PLAINS OF TRURO, WELLFLEET,
AND EASTHAM.*

LOWER CAPE COD exclusive of Provincetown, or that portion of the Cape comprised within the townships of Truro, Wellfleet, and Eastham, is made up of a succession of sand-plains, of the type so prevalent in eastern Massachusetts. The plains are numerous, nevertheless they can all be re-

ferred to three distinct series, differing from each other in elevation and direction of extent. The northernmost of these are the *Truro Plains*, with an average elevation of eighty feet above sea level. These stretch from High Head southward to about half a mile below North Truro village and eastward to Highland Light. Transverse depressions, with a general northeast and southwest trend, separate the individual plains of this series on the west, while depressions with a north and south or a northwest and southeast trend limit them on the east. The slopes bounding these depressions have all the appearance of old constructional slopes, no indications of subsequent erosion having been observed. As an exception to this, however, the slopes bordering Salt Meadow and Moon Pond Meadow on both sides of High Head should be mentioned, these having all the appearance of ancient erosion scarps. The most typical of the northeast and southwest depressions is the one occupied by the road leading from North Truro station to Highland Light. Here the northern slope has all the characters of a southward descending *delta front* of an ordinary sand-plain, while the slope to the south of the road resembles a northward descending *ice-contact* slope. This difference in angle of slope is well shown by the fact that the village of North Truro is built wholly upon the gentler *delta* (?) slope north of the road. This relation of slopes holds for all the northeast and southwest depressions, while in the north and south and in the northwest and southeast depressions the steeper *ice-contact* (?) slope is invariably on the west, and the gentler *delta* (?) slope on the east. Kettle holes are common.

The *Wellfleet Plains* stretch southward from Highland Light to Wellfleet village, with an average elevation of 140 feet above sea level. Highland Light plain is a typical example. For the main part, a depression

* Abstract of a paper read before the Boston Society of Natural History, January 6, 1897.

exists between the Truro and Wellfleet plains, the latter presenting steep *ice-contact* (?) slopes towards the *northwest*.

South of North Truro village, however, the lower plain joins on directly to the higher. Kettle holes are common. Standing upon the high ground a mile north of Truro station and looking east, the whole series of plains seems to descend by a gentle *delta* (?) slope toward the west, leaving a deep and irregular depression occupied by the Provincetown turnpike. In the vicinity of Small's Hill a number of profound northeast and southwest depressions dissect the plain. These are occupied by the roads leading to the east shore. The slopes on both sides of these depressions are steep, and although they probably have been modified by wind the indications are that they are due to former lobes of ice dissecting the growing delta. Pamet River completely divides this series of plains, the southern portion being much more irregular and hummocky than the northern and also containing a number of kettle ponds.

The *Eastham Plains* are typically developed about North Eastham village. This series may be better regarded as one continuous plain uniform along the eastern shore from Wellfleet to the 'Three Lights,' where the elevation is about seventy-five feet above the sea, and the whole plain gently sloping westward. The northern half of this large plain is dissected by discontinuous east and west, and northwest and southeast depressions, with steep *ice-contact* (?) slopes on the south and lobate *delta* (?) slopes on the north. In the southern half of the plain the depressions have a north and south trend, with the steep *ice-contact* (?) slopes on the west and the *delta* (?) slopes on the east. South of Eastham Centre the plain joins on to the moraine. This plain was probably formed while the Truro Plains were accumulating and after the Wellfleet Plains had been formed. The

latter seem to have been built by streams from the north and east. The Truro plains were built by streams from the northwest and northeast, while the Eastham Plain was being built by streams from the east. The terminology is applied to the slopes with some reservation, as almost the only criterion by which to judge of their character is the relative steepness and the general outline. Cuttings are very rare, and hence the relative coarseness of the material, and its disposition within the plains cannot be ascertained. The sections along the shore exhibit horizontal stratification where not covered by talus.

It seems difficult to believe that these plains have not accumulated in static water at the front of the much-dissected ice sheet. Submarine accumulation seems improbable, as erosion scarps would have been formed on the higher plains during the formation of the lower. On the other hand, if a body of fresh water was held up against the moraine, in an embayment in the ice front, it would be necessary to suppose that the ice held on to the moraine from Barnstable eastward, and that a residuary plug of ice filled the valley of Buzzard's Bay. This latter necessity is probably the most serious defect of the glacial lake theory.

AMADEUS W. GRABAU.

A NEW METHOD OF DRIVING AN INDUCTION COIL.

SINCE the induction coil has come into prominence through the discovery of the X-rays of Röntgen considerable attention has been turned toward devising some means which is applicable to long runs, on a voltage such as is furnished by electric light mains, 110 or 220 volts. The more recent forms of break work well with storage batteries, but these are troublesome, and a break which will work satisfactorily on the voltage of ordinary electric-light mains is